



CITY OF BATHURST
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES

January 19, 2026
6:30 p.m.
Council Chambers - City Hall

Recording of Attendance

Mayor K. Chamberlain
Deputy Mayor D. Knowles
Councillor P. Anderson
Councillor D. Branch
Councillor S. Brunet
Councillor R. Hondas
Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc
Councillor S. Legacy
Councillor M. Skerry
Councillor M. Willett

Appointed Officials

T. Pettigrew, CAO
A. Parker, City Clerk
L. Foulem, Corporate Communications Manager
C. Roy, Executive Administrator
R. Wilbur, Senior Director of Community Services

1. **MOMENT OF REFLECTION / TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**
2. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor M. Skerry
Seconded by Councillor S. Legacy

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
 - 3.1 **Deputy Mayor D. Knowles - 2026 Grants Distribution**
4. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
 - 4.1 **Regular Public Meeting Held on December 15, 2025**

Moved by Councillor S. Brunet
Seconded by Councillor M. Willett

THAT the minutes of the Regular Public Meeting dated December 15, 2025, be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

5. CONSENT AGENDA

6. PUBLIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Stéphane Haché – Special Olympics New Brunswick Male Athlete of the Year

Mayor & Council formally recognized and acknowledged the outstanding achievements of Mr. Stéphane Haché, an athlete with Special Olympics Chaleur–Bathurst, for his athletic accomplishments, leadership, spirit of inclusion, and remarkable contribution to the community, which reflect the core values of the Special Olympics movement.

6.2 Business Improvement Area Expansion by Paul Theriault

Council received a presentation from the Downtown Bathurst Revitalization Corporation Inc. (DBRC) outlining its request to expand the boundaries of the existing Business Improvement Area (BIA) to better reflect the true downtown commercial core. The presentation described DBRC's mandate, the benefits of the BIA model, the proposed boundary expansion, and the extensive consultation process undertaken with residential and non-residential property owners, including public meetings, direct correspondence, and newspaper notices. DBRC reported that the expansion received the required level of support, meeting the thresholds set out in the Business Improvement Area Act, and formally submitted a petition requesting that Council initiate the bylaw process to expand the BIA boundaries in accordance with legislative requirements and established timelines.

6.3 Bathurst Hospitality Days by Bob Lennon

During the Committee of the Whole meeting, Council raised questions regarding the Hospitality Days grant request. In response, the President of the Hospitality Days Committee provided a presentation to address the matters raised. It was confirmed that Hospitality Days includes a range of activities for all ages and is not limited to a beer tent event. The President advised that the account balance was \$19,385.65 when the new committee assumed responsibility. It was further noted that grant funding received had been applied for by the previous committee and were received after the events were already underway.

Additional clarification was provided regarding the allocation of funds, in-kind and external contributions, the scale of musical acts, and the decision to reduce programming to two nights. It was also noted that a detailed schedule for the 2026 Hospitality Days event has not yet been finalized. Council requested that audited financial statements be provided in the future.

7. FINANCE

7.1 Accounts Payable Totals for December 2025

Moved by Councillor D. Branch
Seconded by Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

THAT the accounts payable totals, including payroll, for the month of December 2025 be approved as follows:

Operating: \$2,387,597

Capital: \$1,257,286

Total: \$5,240,197

MOTION CARRIED

8. MUNICIPAL BY-LAWS

9. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

9.1 Jeux de l'Acadie

Moved by Councillor R. Hondas

Seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Knowles

WHEREAS the City of Bathurst possesses the facilities, resources, and organizational capacity required to successfully host the Jeux de l'Acadie; and

WHEREAS a call for candidates has been issued for communities interested in hosting the 2028 Jeux de l'Acadie;

BE IT RESOLVED that Council supports submitting the City of Bathurst as a candidate to host the Jeux de l'Acadie in 2028.

MOTION CARRIED

9.2 Appointment - Freeman of the City

Moved by Councillor D. Branch

Seconded by Councillor M. Willett

THAT Mrs. Claire Wilt and Mr. Cletus Boucher be appointed as a Freeman of the City of Bathurst, and that this honour be formally recognized during a special ceremony, to be held at a date, time, and location to be determined.

MOTION CARRIED

9.3 Lease Renewals - Promenade Waterfront

Moved by Councillor S. Legacy

Seconded by Councillor M. Skerry

THAT the lease at the Promenade Waterfront for the following business be renewed for 2026:

- Monty's Pretzelria

THAT the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign all related documents on behalf of the City.

MOTION CARRIED

9.4 Business Improvement Area Expansion

Moved by Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc
Seconded by Councillor D. Branch

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Bathurst has received a petition requesting the expansion of the Business Improvement Area (BIA), pursuant to the *Business Improvement Areas Act*; and

WHEREAS administration has reviewed the petition and determined that it satisfies the requirements of the Act;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Council hereby accepts the petition to expand the BIA.
2. The City Clerk, acting on behalf of the Council, shall ensure that public notice of the proposed BIA expansion, in accordance with the *Business Improvement Areas Act*, is published in a newspaper with general circulation within the municipality, specifying the contents of the proposed by-law as well as the date, time, and location when objections to the by-law may be presented.
3. A by-law shall be drafted to give effect to the proposed expansion of the Business Improvement Area.

MOTION CARRIED

9.5 2026 Grants Distribution

Moved by Councillor R. Hondas
Seconded by Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

THAT the grant distribution be approved as discussed by Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting held January 12, 2026, as follows:

- \$7,000 to the Bathurst Art Society
- \$5,000 to the Victoria Park Enhancement Committee
- \$12,480 annually for four (4) years to the New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation, for a total commitment of \$49,920.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Councillor S. Legacy
Seconded by Councillor R. Hondas

THAT the grant distribution be approved as discussed by Council at the Committee of the Whole meeting held January 12, 2026, as follows:

- \$19,500 to the Bathurst Heritage Museum.

MOTION CARRIED

Moved by Councillor M. Willett
Seconded by Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

THAT the grant distribution be approved as discussed by Council at the Regular Public Meeting held December 15, 2025, as follows:

- \$5,000 to the Downtown Bathurst Revitalization Corporation.

MOTION CARRIED

Deputy Mayor Knowles declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from the discussion of this agenda item.

Moved by Councillor R. Hondas

Seconded by Councillor M. Skerry

THAT the grant distribution be approved as discussed by Council at the Regular Public Meeting held January 19, 2026, as follows:

- \$50,000 to the Bathurst Festival Commission.

MOTION CARRIED

9.6 Proclamation Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the City of Bathurst

Moved by Councillor D. Branch

Seconded by Councillor J.-F. LeBlanc

WHEREAS the City of Bathurst was officially incorporated as a city in 1966; and

WHEREAS 2026 marks the 60th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Bathurst; and

WHEREAS this significant milestone provides an opportunity to reflect upon Bathurst's rich history, cultural heritage, and the many contributions of its residents, community organizations, businesses, and leaders who have helped shape the City over the past six decades; and

WHEREAS the 60th Anniversary is an occasion to celebrate Bathurst's growth, resilience, and ongoing commitment to serving its community and building a vibrant and inclusive future for generations to come;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Bathurst hereby proclaims the year 2026 as the 60th Anniversary of the City of Bathurst and encourages all residents to join in recognizing and celebrating this important milestone.

MOTION CARRIED

9.7 Appointment to the Economic Development Advisory Committee

Moved by Councillor R. Hondas

Seconded by Councillor S. Legacy

THAT Bob Lennon, Brad McLellan, Carole Caron, Grant Erb, Michael Petrovici, and Erica Lynn Scott be appointed to the Economic Development Advisory Committee for a first term, with the term duration to be in accordance with Policy P2025-03 – Committee Policy.

MOTION CARRIED

10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

10.1 Reports from Administration

10.2 Reports from Committees

10.3 Report from the Mayor

The Mayor highlighted ongoing City projects and announced significant January developments, including new air service at the Bathurst Airport. Propair will begin flights to Montreal and Quebec City on January 31, with connections to Ottawa, Sudbury, and Rouyn-Noranda, initially offering seven weekly flights, increasing to 14 by mid-March, with potential summer expansion.

The Mayor also reported on a Bathurst Lightning hockey game where Mr. Shannon recognized the Alpine Paper Makers, national champions in 1971, during a commemorative on-ice ceremony.

The launch of FlexGo, the City's new public transportation service, was announced, noting strong initial usage with 58 users by 9 a.m. on its first day.

The Bathurst CCNB campus will be making an important announcement tomorrow, with Premier Susan Holt and the Minister of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour.

Lastly, the Mayor announced that Atelier Gérard Beaulieu Inc., known as Guardian Tanks, has acquired a new facility in Bathurst, creating approximately 40 new jobs.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor R. Hondas

Seconded by Councillor S. Legacy

THAT the Regular Public Meeting be adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Kim Chamberlain / MAYOR

Amy-Lynn Parker / CITY CLERK